Fall in Prices of Cotton

521. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of cotton have fallen from the last year's Rs. 1500 to Rs. 850/- per quintal; if so the reasons therefor;

(b) what steps Government have taken/propose to take to enable the cotton growers to get remunerative prices;

(c) whether Government propose to boost its price by exporting the cotton;

(d) whether Government propose to purchase the cotton at higher price from the farmers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a): During the Cotton year 1992-93 the prices of cotton have shown a declining trend as compared to 1991-92 due to comfortable stock position of cotton and prospects of a recrd production in 1992-93 season.

(b) The Government have enhanced the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of the two basic varieties of cotton viz. F.414/H-777 and H.7. The MSP of F. 414/H-777 variety has been raised from Rs. 695 per quintal in 1991-92 to Rs. 800 per quintal in 1992.93 and that of H-A variety from Rs. 840 per quintal in 1991-92 to Rs. 950 per quintal in 1992-93. The Minimum Support Prices of the other varieties of cotton have also been enhanced to enable the cotton growers to get remunerative prices.

(c) To enable the cotton growers to get better prices for their produce the Government have already released a quota of 14.995 lakh bales of cotton for exports during the current cotton season.

(d) and (e): The Government have directed the Cotton Corporation of India to intensify purchases in various States to help the farmers to get a reasonable price for their produce.

Fall in Prices of Agricultural Products

522. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of various agricultural produce, such as basmati superfine and toria/sarson have sharply fallen;

(b) if so, the details therof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken/propose to take to enable farmer's to get remunerative prices of their agricultural produce; and

(d) whether Government propose to establish a long range export policy for the welfare of farmers so that the farmers get better prices of their agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b): The prices of various agricultural commodities have exhibited a declining trend for the last 4-5 months The easy trend in the prices of agricultural commodities may be ascribed to better availability due to a good Kharif Crop and expectations of a bright Rabi harvest.

(c) The procurement under price support is made by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in close collaboration with State Governments and their State level procuring agencies. A large number of purchase centres/ Mandis are being operated by the FCI and State procuring agencies.

(d) The Government have announced Export-Import Policy valid for 5 years from April, 1992 to March, 1977 and liberalised the policy for export of number of agricultural products. such as oilseeds vegetable oils, pulses, etc. are allowed for export against licences. The export of fruits, vegetables, spices, floricultural products etc. are freely allowed

Recently, Government have liberalised export of non-basmati rice. Thus, export of non-basmati rice as well as basmati rice is freely allowed.

खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन

523. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में चालू वर्ष के दौरान खाद्यान्न उत्पादन निर्धारित लक्ष्य से कम होने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो खाद्यान्नों का कितना उत्पादन होने का अनुमान है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में सर्वाधिक खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन करने वाले राज्यों में अधिक भूमि का उपयोग गेहूं और चावल के उत्पदान के स्थान पर नकदी फसलों के उत्पादन हेतु उपयोग किया जा रहा है और इसके परिणामस्वरूप गेहूं और चावल उपजाने के लिये प्रयुक्त की जाने वाली भूमि निरंतर कम होती जा रही है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने अन्य राज्यों में गेहूं और चावल की वर्तमान उत्पादन-दर में वृद्धि करने के लिये कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है, और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) वर्तमान मूल्यांकन के अनुसार 1992–93 के दौरान खाद्यान्नों का उत्पाद लगभग 176.7 मिलियन मीटरी टन होने की संभावना है।

(ग) और (घ) : देश के प्रमुख राज्यों में चावल और गेहूं के स्थान पर अन्य नकदी फसलों की खेती के लिए भूमि के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने की मामूली सीमा को छोड़कर, कोई प्रमाण नहीं है। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान सभी राज्यों को मिलाकर चावल और गेहूं के उत्पादन में वृद्धि की दर का लक्ष्य सरकार ने क्रमशः 3.95 और 3.34 प्रतिशत प्रतिवर्ष निर्धारित किया है।

(ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Agricultural Challenges facing the country

524. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the "Financial Express" dated 12th February, 1993 captioned "World Bank Farm Export calls for improved R & D" in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to meet the agricultural challenges facing the country particularly with regard to growing imbalances in geographic allocation of research funds focus on plant breeding other than the major foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.